

Middle East. We cannot abandon our strong ally in Israel by our indifference or inaction, especially when they need us most.

### PROTECTING ISRAEL IS DUTY OF UNITED STATES

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, the deadly conflict plaguing Israel becomes worse and worse each day.

Since Monday, the vile and despicable terrorist organization Hamas has launched over 1,000 rockets from Gaza into Israeli population centers.

The fact that Members of this body are speaking out in support of these terrorists leaves me sickened. The differences between these two sides are shocking. There is no debate that if Israel were to lay down their arms entirely, there would be a genocide. But if Hamas were to lay down their arms, there would be nothing but peace.

The fact that Representatives here in this Chamber would side with violent extremists is mind-boggling. I encourage these Members to go to Gaza, see how they murder members of the LGBTQ community, see how they marginalize and abuse women, how they treat those of different faiths.

Let me be clear: There is no moral equivalency between these two sides. It is our duty to protect Israel, and if anyone is to ever invade Israel, I promise you that there is no crevice on Earth that will conceal you from the wrath of God.

I would also be remiss to not recognize that some Members of this body in the majority party have spoken out against Hamas, and for that, I thank you.

### HONORING POLICE OFFICERS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is good to be an American because as I stand here today during National Police Week, I can truly say that across America, we honor the police officer who holds a child's hand. We honor the police officer who comes to an emergency situation.

I honor the police officers who, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, were on the front lines without testing or vaccination, helping many others. I know, Madam Speaker, because they helped me. They helped me with my testing sites. Now, they help me with my vaccination sites.

I want to remind them they will be helping me tomorrow, and that is Saturday the 15th, when we are at Key Middle School and Heights High School, vaccinating children 12 to 15 years old with the Pfizer vaccination, from 2 to 5 at Key Middle School and 10 to 1 at Heights High School.

We mourn those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. That is because we are Americans, and we stand united in that effort. There can be no divide. We know who we believe in and what we believe in. We thank them so very much, and we also believe in the liberties of all people.

### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it has been interesting. I get to take my mask off under the rules now.

We haven't quite caught up with the science here in the House. The House of Representatives that has leadership proclaiming that we need to follow the science refuses to do so, so far. But we are hoping we will eventually get at least the majority of people here to follow the science.

It has been an interesting time, not a good time, not a wonderful, enriching time to be in the House of Representatives. It has been an exceedingly frustrating time.

After January 6, apparently, the number one goal here in the House was something referred to as optics. According to the Sergeant at Arms, the reason the National Guard was not brought up in advance on January 6, so there would be no one entering the Capitol that was not desired to enter the Capitol, was that word, "optics."

So, the Capitol Police, doing the best they could, were left to fend for themselves without the support they needed. It is a big place. But had the number one concern before January 6 by people here in Washington, at the Capitol, at least, if that number one concern had not been optics, there would have been no one coming into the Capitol that we didn't want to be in the Capitol.

Since then, we have been entertained by all kinds of false statements, false allegations. It has really been amazing. The number one thing we keep coming back to is, apparently, it is not about getting at the truth. It is all about optics.

The top person charged with the safety of Members of Congress, the head of the Capitol Police, months ago indicated that there was no intel from any source that any Member of Congress was at risk or a threat to any other Member of Congress. No Member of Congress was at risk from another Member of Congress.

Since then, as I understand it, there was an ethics charge leveled at MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE that she was encouraging a debate with another Member of Congress and somehow that is apparently an ethics violation.

I had a Democrat some years back come up and threaten to kick my buttocks. I think he used other language.

But had he swung, I might have filed a complaint.

Here on the House floor, what we have are words. We get into very heated debates at times because we care deeply about the things we care deeply about. But those are not assaults.

There have been assaults in the Capitol, and I know memory is apparently a big question these days, but when the President of the United States stands right up here at the second level, as Presidents have since this opened before 1860, and have made speeches—in this case, it wasn't to a joint session; it was to an invitation-only session—but he indicated that what happened on January 6 was the worst attack on democracy since the Civil War.

□ 1200

So being an ongoing student of history since Coach Sam Parker instilled a love in me for history, especially American history—the good, the bad, the ugly, the incredible—I have continued to be a student of American history, and World history as well.

So sometimes it is helpful for those who don't know our history or can't remember our history to be reminded that since the Civil War put an end to slavery in America, even though it took an ordained Christian preacher resolutely, peacefully advocating for civil rights, and that the Constitution should be used as a document that means what it says.

And as the Declaration of Independence made clear, we are endowed not by government, but by our creator with certain unalienable rights.

And Dr. King's letters from the Birmingham jail, as he was unjustly incarcerated, pretty powerful words from a man full of vision. We miss his vision. I think things would be very different if he were still alive today. The assassin did great damage to the United States of America, and the benefits that we would have had from a visionary still if he were alive today.

Because there are some who say if you even use words to debate, that somehow you are an insurrectionist, you need to be jailed. And that has been happening since January 6. In fact, January 6 of 2017, I believe there were 11 different Democrats that stood up and forcefully objected to the results and to the electors that were voting for President Trump.

And there was not a single Republican I ever heard on our side of the aisle that accused them of trying to overthrow the government, insurrection—all these things that some of us have been accused of—simply wanting a fair election in which the votes of tens of millions of Americans were not disenfranchised. The very same thing even our current Speaker has said back in prior days about prior elections.

So imagine the shock for those of us who, for the last 20 years, had been preached to by people on the other side of the aisle about the unfairness of election, the vulnerability of electronic

elections, who seemed disgusted that some of us had the same kind of objections as they had about the election in November.

There is nothing illegal, improper, against the House rules of objecting, yet we had people on the other side of the aisle who were encouraging all kinds of punishment for those on this side of the aisle who did exactly what Democrats have been doing for 20 years or so—objecting, as they did January 2001. And we saw objection January 6 of 2005.

And these “woke” corporations that now want to punish anybody that objected to potentially—and there is evidence of fraud in the November 2020 election—and those who say there was no fraud in the election are either doing so knowingly, knowing that it is false what they are saying, or just because they bought in to what the mainstream/lame-stream media has reported. But there was fraud in that election. There usually is some fraud in national elections.

And in States where it was somewhat close compared to the number of people voting, like Arizona, they are doing the right thing. They are trying to have an audit. And, obviously, the efforts of the audit is being covered up. There is evidence being destroyed. I guess a bit like when you have a Secretary of State that destroys evidence that she has, that has been sought, has it destroyed with a hammer or with BleachBit, obstruction of justice.

But, fortunately, for some, we had a Justice Department that saw crimes committed by Democrats that did not need to be pursued or punished, and things that were not crimes that Republicans did needed to be punished.

People all across America are naturally going to be upset when they don't just perceive, they see and know that there is a two-tiered justice system—one for certain high-place Democrats and one for Republicans, or those who support Republicans. And Heaven help them if they support President Donald Trump.

That is what has been so amazing to someone like me, who has been part of the justice system and seeing the law enforced for so much of my adult life. It is unbelievable. And hearing from FBI agents around the country who repeatedly said, if anybody in our office, in this location, that location, different locations around the country had done a fraction of the things that were done by top FBI officials in Washington, D.C., then we would not only have been fired, but they would have been looking at coming after us with criminal charges. And they were despondent because they were devoting their lives to justice.

Republican and Democrat prosecutors in different parts of the country couldn't believe what they were seeing. The injustice coming from what was supposed to be the Justice Department. And what has happened since January 6 is quite sickening. It is a war. It is an assault on our Constitution.

Now, it is not new. Back when Mueller was head of the FBI, and the inspector general shocked everyone who was paying attention, that there had been over 3,000 abuses of the national security letter where FBI agents had just wanted to do fishing expeditions—no crime, no probable cause. They just wanted information about people when the Constitution did not permit it.

So they send a national security letter demanding that a bank accompany an individual, give them all the information on another American, just because they wanted it. Outrageous. And that, we know, occurred during President George W. Bush's administration, while Mueller was FBI Director.

Now, he made a statement: Gee, I will take all the blame.

Well, he should because he created an environment at the FBI that apparently encouraged lawlessness by top FBI agents. And if you look at Ted Stevens, Senator from Alaska, who was framed by the FBI, and you look at what Director Mueller did in the aftermath of finding out if he did not know all the time before that while it was going on, that Ted Stevens was framed, that he was not guilty of what was charged.

And the FBI had evidence that he was not guilty, and they covered that up and they helped create evidence to make it look like he was guilty. And they saw that he was tried right before his election. And the loss seemed like it was between 1,000–2,000 votes. He lost his seat.

The FBI did that. Mueller's FBI did that. And when one FBI agent with a conscience pointed that out in an affidavit, the injustice that had occurred by the FBI and his supervisor, well, Mueller's reward for that FBI's agency was to drive him out of the FBI. And his reward for the person that—according to the affidavit, helped frame Ted Stevens—was that that FBI agent was promoted, got a better job with the FBI.

Apparently, Mueller likes people who are quite good at framing somebody and getting them convicted, because that is what happened.

That should have been all the wake-up call we needed to have a house-cleaning at the top of the FBI, but that didn't happen. So the abuses got worse during the Obama administration, and you had things like fast and furious, where people actually encouraged the sale and distribution of weapons to drug cartels. And no one, even to this day, has ever been held accountable for that.

In fact, there was a cover-up by the Justice Department then. They wouldn't let us have the documents so we could see exactly what happened. In fact, Congress was so inane in its effort to obtain those documents, that the best job—both on fast and furious and on the Benghazi cover-up—was done by Judicial Watch. They got more documentation out of the Justice Depart-

ment than Congress did, and we are charged with oversight.

Even when the Republicans had the majority, people were put in place who did not pursue justice and a cleanup of the Justice Department. So by the time President Trump came along, he had a number of people at the top who created the Russia hoax—a fraud.

And as others have said, when the Justice Department and the FBI can work as effectively at trying to frame the President of the United States, who happens to be a billionaire, then most of us would be in severe trouble. And that is the case, and we have seen it in the last few years.

We have seen a Justice Department—of course, Christopher Wray—my humble opinion—when he was put in there with a job of cleaning up the FBI, his idea of cleaning up the FBI was to sweep as much of the dirt under the rug so that people couldn't see it.

Just like now, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, their job is not to just secure the border under this administration. Their job is to now get them away from the border as quickly as possible so that people don't see them. They are not in the news every night because they have moved them out.

As the border patrolmen have said, they are looked upon as the Mexican drug cartels' logistics. The drug cartels get paid money or agreements to pay money from people they bring, including unaccompanied minors; and then the U.S. Government is their logistics because the government ships future drug sailors, traffickers, human traffickers, sex traffickers. Our U.S. Government ships them around the United States so that they can get to the town the drug cartels want them doing their drug trafficking, human trafficking or sex trafficking.

□ 1215

The government has become a part of the process for the drug cartels, all to the damage and often the death of American citizens.

When Pancho Villa and his minions invaded, I believe it was New Mexico, John Pershing, General Pershing, was sent down. He had a lieutenant named Patton. They were sent down to Mexico, even invade Mexico, going after Pancho Villa and his troops because there were some families who they killed in New Mexico.

We have thousands of people dying from fentanyl coming from Mexico, and the answer of this administration, we heard in the last couple of days, the administration is going to add 13 miles to the wall but otherwise leave over 1,000 miles without wall.

The answer has not been to secure the border. The answer from this administration has been to say that the border is secure, when anybody with eyes to see or ears to hear knows that is not true.

The injustices that have occurred since January 6 appear to be a continuation of the goal of that one word, “optics,” the one word that prevented our

leadership from having the National Guard on hand to ensure that the Capitol was not invaded.

We heard in the Judiciary Committee—that is why I had videotape, which we are not allowed to have here on the House floor, obviously, but had the videotape of John Sullivan, a Trump-hater, who has been supportive of groups that wanted Trump pulled out of office, or as Mr. Sullivan—and I will paraphrase—wanted to yank him out of the White House and do things to him. But he was one of the first ones in the Capitol. He is on video. He was bragging: See, I told you we would be able to do this, getting into the Capitol. He was there egging on people, even at the shooting of the young lady who was shot by a Capitol policeman.

Many of us would like to know the full circumstances of so much that went on here, but the thousands of hours of tape are not being used. Now, some of us had heard that the wonderful Capitol policeman, Officer Sicknick, that he had died of natural causes. Yet, it was all over the media that he was beaten with a fire extinguisher. It turned out that was completely false. There is an article about that by Julie Kelly in *American Greatness*, April 26.

Her article pointed out there is no reason to keep these men in jail, let alone in solitary confinement in a D.C. prison. The cause of Capitol Officer Sicknick's untimely death on January 7 is finally settled, but the prosecution of his alleged attackers rages on. After months of dishonest accounts about what happened to Officer Sicknick—first, that he was bludgeoned to death by insurrectionists with a fire extinguisher, and then that he died of an allergic reaction to bear spray.

The D.C. medical examiner's office confirmed that 42-year-old Officer Sicknick died of a stroke. The chemical sprayed in his direction during the chaos outside the Capitol on January 6 did not contribute to his death.

In its haste to bolster the new narrative, maintaining Sicknick was killed by rioters wielding bear spray, the Acting Attorney General was in on the lie from the start. The Justice Department charged two men with the chemical attack. George Tanios and Julian Khater were arrested March 14 and charged with several crimes, including four counts related to possession and use of a deadly or dangerous weapon and for conspiring ahead of time to use the spray against the officers. They have been behind bars ever since.

Both were transported to the Nation's Capital, where they joined dozens of January 6 detainees held in solitary confinement in a D.C. Jail. A judge on Tuesday, this was dated April 26, will consider motions filed by their attorneys to release both defendants as they await trial.

This says, as I have reported: For the past few months, Federal courts, at the direction of Joe Biden's Justice Department, are denying bond to non-

violent protestors as their cases continue a slow slog through an intentionally overloaded D.C. judicial system. The presumption of innocence has been suspended for Trump supporters involved in the January 6 protest, largely based on a supposed thought crime of doubting the legitimacy of the 2020 election.

Parenthetically, if that were a crime, there would be Democrats who would have been arrested and gone to jail going back to January 2001, when an objection was made to electors. There were no woke corporations back then saying they would no longer do business with those Democrats, nor did they do that after the Democrat objections on January 6, 2005, or after the significant number of objections on January 6, 2017.

Now, all of a sudden, it is supposed to be a crime, a heinous act, to object under the rules in the Constitution? Things have to turn around here if we are going to save this little experiment in self-government.

Anyway, dangerous evidence, the article questions, law enforcement officials have argued in court pleadings that defendants shouldn't have unfettered access to tens of thousands of hours of video evidence because they might pass along the information to those who wish to attack the Capitol again.

Instead, according to a recent Politico article, prosecutors are "working to build an archive of video that would permit defendants to peruse relevant clips but sharply restrict their access and permit prosecutors a chance to object if they feel such footage could be misused or present a risk."

Now, that sounds a great deal like what the prosecutors and the FBI were saying about Ted Stevens and their evidence, that they restricted him having access to his own evidence that would have proved his innocence had he been allowed all the evidence that was seized from his home and other places.

Anyway, toward the end of the article, it says:

"Khater's family is asking the court to release him on a \$15 million bond guaranteed by 16 family members. As one journalist noted, that amount is three times higher than Harvey Weinstein's bail.

"Judge Thomas Hogan will hear the case on Tuesday and then decide whether to keep Khater and Tanios behind bars until their next court date or confine the pair to home detention.

"There is no reason to keep these men in jail, let alone in solitary confinement in a D.C. prison. Cherry-picked video evidence does not support the weapon charges against them. The chief investigator confessed no evidence exists to prove that the can of spray ever was used or that Khater sprayed it at anyone, including police officers. The Justice Department's refusal to allow access to the video evidence raises plenty of red flags.

"Neither man has a criminal record. George Tanios and Julian Khater pose no threat to society. Their only crime, as is the case with hundreds of non-violent Capitol protestors, was supporting Donald Trump and daring to question the validity of the 2020 Presidential election, a doubt shared by tens of millions of Americans."

So we have Federal judges that are playing along with this whole outrageous miscarriage of justice for hundreds of Americans who were concerned, as Democrats were in 2001, 2005, 2017. But fortunately for them, Republicans didn't try to create a Federal crime out of questioning election results.

Julie Kelly has done extraordinary research on what has occurred since January 6 and on January 6. Some points that she has found:

On April 28, 2021, Paul Hopper heard a ruckus in his house. He was in his bedroom answering emails. Clad in his pajamas, he went downstairs to see what was happening. He was confronted by at least a dozen FBI agents, some pointing guns at him and his wife, Marilyn. The couple, along with their houseguests, including a teenager, were handcuffed.

Now, where is the outrage that we have been hearing in the Judiciary Committee about young people being unfairly treated? Where is the outrage about the treatment of people since January 6 by any Democrats? Even our Vice President was raising money to pay their bail in places where there was not just looting but there was burning, physical assaults, and, like in Missouri, even death of innocent people.

The Hoopers were placed in separate rooms in their home in Alaska, without legal counsel, without the chance to inspect a warrant. Paul and Marilyn were interrogated for hours about their trip to Washington, D.C., in January. They attended President Trump's speech and walked down to the Capitol. They committed no crime. They did not even enter the building.

They did what tens of thousands of Americans did on January 6. They traveled to their Nation's Capital, just like all the leftists did that did such damage, and tried to physically assault some of us here in the Capitol last year.

Yet, not only were they not punished, those of us who were being threatened and people running after us, we were not protected at all. But Paul and Marilyn, as they were so unfairly and unjustly treated by the FBI and the Department of Justice, the FBI claimed they were looking for NANCY PELOSI's stolen laptop.

They said Marilyn looked like a woman in the Capitol who was a suspect, but the photos—that anybody could clearly see—the photos that the FBI finally presented, eventually, it was clear, that wasn't Marilyn, and that wasn't Paul. They didn't take the laptop. Yet, their freedom was taken from them to teach a lesson.

□ 1230

Nonetheless, agents threatened both Paul and Marilyn Heupers, the teenager that was there. They threatened them with legal recourse. They ransacked their home, and they took their cell phones and their computers. They even took a copy of the Declaration of Independence. I wish they would read it and understand it.

The Huepers have not been charged with any crime, but more than 400 Americans have been charged with various offenses relating to January 6, but most face nonviolent trespassing and disorderly conduct charges.

Just yesterday, the Justice Department announced the arrest of an Active Duty United States Marine stationed at Quantico for his involvement in the protests that day.

Joe Biden's Justice Department is criminalizing political protest—but only political protest by Republicans or conservatives. They are destroying the lives of American families. They are weaponizing the events of January 6 to silence Trump-supporting Americans.

You don't have to take our word for it. Michael Sherwin, the acting U.S. Attorney who handled the first few months of the Capitol breach probe, bragged that his office arrested at least 100 people between January 6 and January 20 to stop people from coming to D.C. to protest Joe Biden's inauguration.

"I wanted to make sure there was shock and awe, that we could charge as many people as possible before the 20th, and it worked because we saw through media posts that people were afraid to come back to D.C. because if we go there, we are going to get charged."

That is only part of what is happening. Dozens of Americans have been hauled out of their homes, transported to Washington, D.C. and held in solitary confinement for months awaiting delayed trials with no end in sight. Nearly all have no criminal record. Some are veterans and ex-law enforcement officers. But the Justice Department is throwing the book at them. Even worse, Federal judges and prosecutors argue that these folks are a danger to society because they doubt the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election.

In one case against a man who didn't even enter the building, a Federal judge nonetheless denied bond and said this:

"This is an offense that, at bottom, was an attempt to stop democracy from moving forward, because people were unhappy about the results of the election. I don't think that the defendant will follow my conditions if he believes I am part of this machine of the democratic process."

Well, that judge ought to be part of the Democratic Justice Department, because that is how that judge is acting, not as a judge but as an advocate and as a part and parcel of what you

could call a conspiracy because these people are working to silence anybody who has supported Donald Trump. That is one example of how government lawyers and judges are criminalizing someone's belief about the 2020 Presidential election. It is much like the U.S. Attorney who is saying that if they charge enough people, then Trump supporters are not going to be willing to come back out because they know they will get charged.

We have in this city political prisoners held hostage by their own government. They are victims of an unequal system of justice in a country where rioters and looters on the left are let off the hook—even considered heroes—while those on the right are considered hardened criminals without any record before trial can even begin.

Here is how one defense attorney described the conditions in the D.C. Correctional Treatment Facility: Detainees are held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day. They cannot shower or shave regularly; some have been physically assaulted by prison guards.

They cannot play a role in their own defense. They have no regular access to tablets to communicate with their lawyers or family members. In-person meetings with counsel are nearly impossible; conversations between defendants and lawyers are overheard by other defendants and their lawyers in addition to prison guards.

At a detention hearing on May 11 for the two men accused of using pepper spray against police officers and against the late officer, Brian Sicknick, one defense lawyer told the judge he had not been able to speak with his client for 2 weeks.

Julian Khater and George Tanios—about whom we were speaking earlier—were arrested in March for allegedly spraying the officers. They are still being held in the D.C. jail for weeks awaiting trial.

This week, a Federal judge—one I spoke of earlier—denied bail to both defendants. Julian Khater's family was willing to put up a \$15 million bond package. Neither man has a criminal record, but you have a judge and a Justice Department with an agenda, and so what these men are getting is not only not bond, but they are getting the most injustice the Department of Justice can throw at them. They never even went inside the building and the government has yet to prove their cases at all, but the judge basically tried the case himself this week without either defendant present. Judge Hogan said the men are a danger to society because they attempted to halt the democratic process.

Well, if that were a crime, we would have dozens of Democrats with a criminal record for coming in here. It was the first and only time in American history that one party came in, took over the House floor, and prevented a session from taking place. It never happened before, and it never happened since. Of course, the election didn't go

too well for Democrats after that. We had a very weak Speaker of the House at the time who kept saying that those people will be punished for their improprieties and for their unethical and unruly behavior. There were at least a dozen or more rules of the House that were violated by most of the Democrats.

Madam Speaker, you are not supposed to sit on the House floor, on the floor itself. You are not supposed to bring food. Heck, food was catered in here. You are not supposed to take pictures in here. There were not only pictures taken, but there was a broadcast going on from the House floor. Rule after rule were broken. There could have potentially been criminal charges, but none were made. None of us filed any criminal charges.

Even though the insurrectionists and the Democratic Party came in here and prevented the House from doing business for 24 hours, PAUL RYAN kept saying he was going to do something about it. He never did. No one has ever been punished for the massive improprieties that took place.

Many of these people are finally being charged with preventing, or conspiring to prevent Congress from taking action. Well, that is exactly what many of the House Democrats did that day when they prevented, for 24 hours, us from going into session here. The fact is, I didn't and wouldn't advocate that any of the Democratic Representatives be charged or should have been charged criminally. There were rule violations. I felt like it should have been handled by Ethics, but I would not want criminal charges brought against other Members of the House for the very things that Trump supporters are being charged with.

I would have felt that was inappropriate against Democratic Members of Congress then, and I feel like it is inappropriate for those who were non-violent—at least many of them. It is a misdemeanor, it should be, but they are trying to make it for optics purposes into some kind of justification for having metal detectors out here, even though they ought to be other places, and Capitol Police ought to be other places. But it is a great deal like I look around, and anybody who is not speaking has to wear a mask because of optics, that we want people to think there is this grave, great danger here.

That is why we have the fence. They took the outer fence down. The inner fence is still around here. We have National Guard troops that could be helping secure our border. That doesn't violate posse comitatus, because they would be enforcing our border against non-American citizens, so posse comitatus, as I hear people bring up, wouldn't come into play. They could be down there helping secure the border, but instead, they are stuck around here in parking garages. I see them in parking garages all the time. That is outrageous.

Why are they all here still after all this time?

Optics. Optics.

It was not as President Bush said when he signed the bill to be used against political protesters, but that is exactly what is being done right now. That bill did not apply to the thousands of people who occupied the Senate and tried to stop the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. It didn't apply to protesters who tried to stop his swearing-in by banging on the doors of the Supreme Court. It didn't apply to any of the protests we have seen over the years in Washington, D.C., but people who were here on that day are being charged with that offense, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in jail.

The media and Democrats continue to misrepresent what happened on January 6. But nearly 200 people have been charged with "obstruction of an official proceeding."

That is the vague law that President Bush signed into law in 2002. It was aimed at white-collar criminals after the Enron scandal, and yet, it is being used only against people who support President Trump, none of those who officially obstructed the House Chamber for 24 hours who were members of the Democratic Party.

Well, the claim about a fire extinguisher being used to murder Officer Sicknick even made it into the Democrats' impeachment memo. But it was a lie. We finally learned he died tragically at the age of 42 of a stroke.

The three other people did not die because of what happened that day. Two died of heart failure, and one died of a drug overdose. There is no evidence as has been said on January 7 that this was an armed insurrection—armed meaning with firearms. There were no firearms. Of course, Bruno Cua had a little baton. He didn't use it against anybody, but he still is being charged with using a deadly weapon.

Not one person has been charged with bringing a firearm to the Capitol. People have been charged with carrying or using things like Mace or a helmet, but no one brought a gun into this building, and we still have no one in custody for allegedly planting inoperable pipe bombs near the headquarters of the DNC and the RNC.

What was all of that about?

Some of us tried to get information about those bombs. Normally, people don't put bombs that don't work out where people can see them unless it is simply for the optics. Now, when they are serious, they do what Bill Ayers' people, the Weather Underground, did when they set off a bomb in the U.S. Senate. To me, that was more of an attack, more of a war or an attack on democracy. In this very room, terrorists from Puerto Rico came in here and shot four House Members. Four Members of Congress were shot in this room in 1954.

□ 1245

To me, that was more of an attack on democracy, for the President's information.

When Pearl Harbor occurred, that was more, thousands, 2,000 to 3,000 people were killed. That was more of an attack on democracy than the protest of January 6.

When 9/11 occurred—and I know it has been so long ago, there are a lot of people who have forgotten, apparently, about 9/11—3,000 people killed. The Pentagon was hit. The two World Trade Center buildings were hit. Thousands died. That was more of an attack on democracy.

I just want the President to understand there have been things worse than people without any firearms coming into a building.

Now, I have been a judge. I wouldn't put up with that kind of activity, disruption. Sure, people go to jail for that. They would not get charged a felony, normally, but certainly misdemeanors. So there is punishment that should and could be used, but not innocent people, not like Paul and Marilyn. FBI swarmed their home, took all their stuff. That is just so wrong.

The coverup of the video that was available here in the Capitol that could really establish what all went on is atrocious.

I have so many friends in the Capitol Police. They are wonderful people. I admire them greatly. But there are people in leadership positions, apparently, who are covering up video of what went on here. Now, even the news media is asking the D.C. District Court for access to video evidence presented in virtual court proceedings.

As one of my Republican colleagues said this week in the House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing, we need to release all the tapes so the American people can see what happened before, during, and after the disturbance on January 6.

There is no doubt people came here on January 6 to cause trouble. Most did not come here to cause trouble. Most came here to protest in the manner that I have advocated for years, and that is the effective manner that Dr. King advocated for. So much more is done by peaceful protest.

But Americans need to make their voices heard. This power-hungry group occupying positions of power in Washington, D.C., right now, they are wanting to intimidate and use injustice for their own political purposes.

The overwhelming number of people caught up in this "unprecedented investigation," as the Justice Department promises, they are actually non-violent, peaceful Americans. Their only crime was supporting Donald Trump and concern about the fraud Democrats have been telling us about in elections for many years.

An article from April 12, Julie Kelly, "Indefinite Incarceration for Protesters with 'Wrong' Politics," a great article, documents about different people who are getting death threats. The press has helped bring about all kinds of calamities on people whose crime

was being concerned about the election and being here and peacefully protesting.

It documents some of the travesties that are occurring with some people whose only crime was being concerned about fairness in the election in America.

Another, as "Capitol Defendants Rot in D.C. Jail, Portland Rioters Get Leniency," documents how lenient the Justice Department—yes, the same Justice Department that is locking up in solitary confinement people who really didn't commit the actions they are charged with. That same Justice Department is going easy on the looters and destroyers in Portland.

An article from April 19, "From 'Insurrectionists' to 'Interruptionists'"—that is probably going to be the charge that ends up sticking in most cases. They obstructed Congress from their jobs, not for 24 hours like the Democrat Members of Congress who kept us from having session in here for 24 hours. Not like that, but just for a matter of hours till things were under control. Then we were back in no time, back here in this Chamber, doing our business.

But the FBI raided the Hueper couple's home. That was with guns drawn.

Here is this 18-year-old, Bruno Cua, the complaint I have here. He is charged with assault on a Federal officer. Yet, there has been no evidence presented of any assault on a Federal officer—civil disorder, obstruction of an official proceeding. That is the one that probably is why Julie Kelly says they have gone from insurrectionist to interruptionist: enter or remain on the floor or gallery of either House of Congress; violent entry or disorderly conduct; engage in physical violence; obstruct or impede passage; and parade, demonstrate, or picket on Capitol Grounds.

That is what we have come to, locking up this 18-year-old with no criminal history whatsoever.

Interesting, in Bruno Cua's case, the Justice Department was arguing, since he had begun to be homeschooled before January 6, as thousands and thousands of American children have been since teachers are refusing in so many places to come teach them, that is used by the Justice Department to say you can't allow this guy to be released, this dangerous 18-year-old with no criminal history.

It says, oh, but look at his social media, and he is being homeschooled, so you can't release him home because, you know, that is where he came from. That would be terrible.

Yet, in Portland, they are letting people go, right and left, with long criminal histories and with actual violence that they have committed.

Anyway, Rick Manning has a good article from May 12 in Townhall, "Biden's America Resembles the Bad Old Days of 1973."

I keep expecting, at any time, our President to say that we need to put

out big pins with the letters W-I-N on them, as Gerald Ford did. That stood for “Whip Inflation Now,” and that didn’t work. Wearing a pin with “Whip Inflation Now” did not whip inflation, nor did Jimmy Carter wearing a sweater heal or fix our problem with a lack of energy. That didn’t work. But that looks like the kind of thing we are headed back to.

There is a great deal of injustice, and I would think, for all of those who obstructed an official proceeding here on the House floor, under the leadership of the Democrat Party leadership, that for far longer disrupted the House proceedings, violating countless House rules, I would think that with that in someone’s background, that they have committed that crime that these people are being charged with, that we would get a lot more sympathy from our colleagues across the aisle.

Many were not here then. But the ones who were, who committed that crime being charged now, have it a little easier on those who interrupted us that day.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, in the United States, there are 1.4 million LGBTQ businesses contributing more than \$1.7 trillion to the American economy. We have a vested interest in sustaining and strengthening those businesses with equal access to credit, which is the beating heart of the American economy.

As a former New York City Council member, I partnered with the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to establish the Nation’s largest municipal certification program for LGBTQ business enterprises, enabling those businesses to enjoy equal access to a \$25 billion pool of government procurement. I am continuing in the United States Congress the advocacy that I began years ago in the New York City Council.

My legislation, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act, builds on a foundation laid by several statutes and regulations. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act, ECOA, prohibits credit discrimination, including but not limited to sex discrimination.

A new interpretive rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau clarifies that ECOA’s prohibition against sex discrimination applies to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Section 1071 of Dodd-Frank, which exists to enable and enhance the enforcement of ECOA, requires financial institutions to report information about the race, ethnicity, and sex of

credit applicants who serve as the principal owners of small businesses.

My legislation would expand the 1071 reporting requirements to include not only sex but also sexual orientation and gender identity. In doing so, it would enable antidiscrimination enforcement where none might exist.

Even though the United States has made substantial strides toward LGBTQ equality, the mission is far from accomplished. Seventy percent of the LGBTQ community remains unprotected by antidiscrimination laws. When it comes to credit, in particular, according to the Williams Institute, more than 7.7 million LGBTQ adults live in States that offer no protection against credit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Francis Bacon once said that knowledge is power. Knowledge affords us the power to detect discrimination that might otherwise go undetected. Take, as an example, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which is analogous to my legislation.

Both the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Iowa State University reviewed data from the HMDA and found that same-sex couples were denied loans at higher rates than heterosexual couples, despite having comparable creditworthiness. It also found that those same-sex couples paid higher interest rates and higher fees.

The experience of the HMDA tells us that sunlight can be a powerful disinfectant against discrimination.

The Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act would make credit more accessible, credit laws more enforceable, and creditors more accountable. It would represent a triumph of transparency in the service of economic opportunity for all, regardless of who you are and whom you love.

□ 1300

#### HATE NEVER BRINGS PEACE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, earlier in the week, a public official posted on Twitter the following image of a map where the State of Israel is nowhere to be found. There is nothing accidental about the omission. Wiping Israel off the map is the objective of the BDS movement. Notice the image includes flowers to symbolize peace, as though peace meant the destruction of Israel itself.

When most Americans speak of peace, we mean the peaceful coexistence of an Israeli state and Palestinian state, not the existence of one to the exclusion of the other. Most Americans are anguished by the trauma of Israelis seeking refuge in bomb shelters in the face of relentless rocket fire. And most Americans are anguished by the deep suffering and death toll of Palestinians who live under the repressive rule of Hamas and who have fallen victim to the wretchedness of war.

The rapid-fire rhetoric that we have seen directed at Israel is so hyperbolic, so vitriolic, that it inflames rather than informs. It delegitimizes Israel

rather than deescalates the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Those propagating hate are not part of the solution, but part of the problem. Hate never brings peace. It never has. It never will.

You can either promote hate or you can promote peace, but you cannot advance both. Let us not be fooled by the pretense of peace. Let us find the wisdom to tell the difference between genuine peace and hate hidden under the guise of peace.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a family matter.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday, May 17, 2021, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 1 o’clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, May 17, 2021, at noon for morning-hour debate.

#### OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Member executed the oath for access to classified information:

Troy A. Carter

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-1110. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing eight officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral or rear admiral (lower half), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1111. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Timothy M. Ray, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Christopher P. Weggeman, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of Lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.